

The Bubble
By Bryan Paul Hunt

FADE IN.

EXT. FOREST. DUSK

A lush forest covers the landscape. A large white shimmering dome bubble of colonization breaks the monotony of the forest. This is 'Pandora's Hope'. Other colonization dome bubbles can be seen in the distance.

EXT. FOREST. GUARD STATION. NIGHT

A meager guard station stands in the trees near the shimmering bubble wall. Everything is awash in moon glow. It is merely a stand of boards where the guard rests his weapon. An array of playing cards, slightly frayed, lies beside the weapon in some sort of solitaire game. The guard is nowhere to be seen. The bubble wall remains in shot for a couple of seconds to contrast the natural world.

A hand slams onto the guard table with the 'king of suns' on it. The 'king of suns' is a one eyed man with a raven on his shoulder and the sun behind him.

MARCUS

(to the card)

There you are, your highness...

The Guard comes into view as he stands up.

MARCUS is a man in his early thirties, muscular and lazy. He is loyal and truthful, but likes nothing more than drinking and gambling.

MARCUS

(to the card)

...no more gallivanting for you. You stay put now here in the bubble, my lordship, and win me the game...

He puts the card down and a gust of wind comes up. Like he has done it before, Marcus slams his arms to keep the cards from flying away. The Queen of Earth almost flies away, but Marcus catches the card.

MARCUS

Not so fast, my lady. No need
to be naughty.

He places the Queen half under the King of Suns and puts a
rock on top of them.

MARCUS

That ought to keep you.

At that moment we hear a twig snap. Marcus snaps to
attention and looks nervously left and right.

All is quiet.

He looks around nervously. Quiet. He exhales and starts
playing again. He picks up the ace of earths and....

...It is ripped from his hand by an arrow.

Marcus freaks.

He quickly grabs his gun and puts the sling on his
shoulder. He fumbles loading ammunition into the gun.

As he loads his weapon, we notice an arrow pressed against
the back of his neck.

Marcus freezes and drops his weapon.

Behind him stands CAPTAIN MESIA

CAPTAIN MESIA is a younger woman wearing earth tones with a
small bear claw tattoo on her neck. She has a bow slung
across her back.

CAPTAIN MESIA

Impressive.

Marcus holds his hand to his chest, and exhales in relief.

CAPTAIN MESIA

All quiet at station 7?

Marcus remembers his solitaire game and sits on it to hide
it.

MARCUS
Yes Ma'am, Captain.

She nods.

MARCUS
If you dont mind my askin', what
are we guarding against? I mean I
know some folk disappeared and its
got the Admin all 'wigetty'...

Marcus holds his hands out and wiggles them to show
'wigetty'

MARCUS
(continuing)
...but what are we looking for?

CAPTAIN MESIA
We don't know. Somethings on the
prowl out here. My guess is that
it is something new. Something wild.
Just keep an eye out.

Marcus does a mock salute and grins.

CAPTAIN MESIA
And Marcus?

Marcus sits at attention. Alert.

CAPTAIN MESIA
(continuing)
Enjoy your game.

Mesia pulls her arrow out of the tree. She pulls a slightly
perforated card off the arrow. The Ace of Earths.

She grins as he smiles sheepishly. She turns and walks back
into the forest.

Marcus stands up checking her out as she goes.

MARCUS
(under his breath)
Mmmm...mmm...for a superior officer
that is one superior looking ...bundt
cake.

He pauses.

MARCUS
(to himself, questioning the terminology)
Bundt Cake?

He nods to himself.

MARCUS
Ya, 'Bunt Cake'...I like that.

The wind picks up again and the rock holding the cards
blows off the table. Then the cards blow off.

He notices the cards and comes out of his trance.

MARCUS
Eee!

The king, the Queen and half the other cards blow through
the bubble wall.

MARCUS
Damn! The deck is split!

He crouches to pick up the cards on the ground and crawls
on all fours.

MARCUS
(under his breath)
Stupid wind. Had to ruin a perfectly
good deck...

Marcus picks up some more cards.

MARCUS
(under his breath)
It was my grandma's deck too

A monstrous shape appears behind him on the bubble wall,
rising up. It distorts and shifts with the bubble
distortion.

BEAST (DISTORTED)
Gheeseewah-yay seewah-yay

Marcus, who is facing away from the bubble wall goes bug
eyed.

BEAST (DISTORTED)
Morg-ut! Nitsmah-gog!

Marcus stands up and grabs his gun, just as the distortion
fades.

He spins around nervously.

MARCUS
Who is it?

He spins again when a thud is heard

MARCUS
(weakly)
Captain?

Marcus backs up towards the bubble wall. As he does, the
monstrous shape rises and distorts on the bubble wall
again, this time immediately behind him.

Marcus looks left and right nervously.

Something reaches through the bubble wall to touch him on
the shoulder.

BEAST (DISTORTED)
(loudly now)
Mooohgant-Saiiyts-maynt!

Marcus's eyes fling open.

MARCUS
(screaming)
AaaaaaHh!!

He spins with his gun. The distorted shape of the beast looms before him.

BEAST (DISTORTED)
Nosdtonigot?

Marcus fires his weapon. A blue bolt shoots out of it with a sizzle and the sound of it distorts as it passes through the bubble wall. It hits the beast.

BEAST (DISTORTED)
Gah-sorin!!....DOOhhhhh!...
targif...hhhsa....

The shape of the beast diminishes and disappears from the bubble wall.

Marcus stares blankly at the bubble wall for a moment and backs away from it.

His foot steps on twig and it snaps.

His eyes fly open at the sound.

MARCUS
Aaahhhh!

Marcus runs off, scared

EXT. FOREST. FIELD. NIGHT

The peacefulness of the moonlit meadow is shattered by Marcus bursting out of a bush and tumbling dows.

MARCUS

Ooof!

Marcus regains his feet and runs....

MARCUS

Its coming....the beast...

INT. ADMIN'S TENT. NIGHT.

Administrator ADA MENT sits at a desk looking over a document that her ASSISTANT just handed her.

ADA MENT is a strong, stern woman in her early fifties. She is tall and thin. Grey peppers her short haircut.

Suddenly the tent door flies open to reveal Marcus, panting, smoking weapon hanging at his side

MARCUS

(gasping for breath)

...is Here!

No response. Marcus pants as he holds his hand up in a stop motion, while he catches his breath.

Ada and her assistant look confused.

MARCUS

The Beast!

Ada looks shocked and straightens up. Then as quickly as the shock came, it turns to seriousness.

A moment of silence as Ada and Marcus look at each other.

Ada with a look of defiance to her, Marcus with a look of desperation. Finally Ada gives in and becomes more resolved.

ADA
(to her assistant)
Send for a TruthStalker

EXT. WORLD OF METHIUS. DAY.

TITLE OVER: 25 Days later

A beautiful lush forest and mountainscape is front and center with a few bubbles in view.

APPRENTICE NESTRA (V.O.)
Tell me of this place master

TRUTHSTALKER CADE (V.O.)
Well, Menthius is a world in the outer colonial sphere. Lush beauty and fertile abundance abound. An idyllic paradise new to the Impirium. Idyllic, yet filled with an atmosphere of deadly valecon.

EXT. COLONIAL BUBBLE OF PANDORAS HOPE. DAY.

APPRENTICE NESTRA (V.O.)
Ah, hence the atmospheric bubble. In truth these people are prisoners to it

TRUTHSTALKER CADE (V.O.)
No, my apprentice. These are a simple and agrarian people, in truth the bubble frees them

APPRENTICE NESTRA (V.O.)
Wisdom is the mentor.

EXT. COLONIAL BUBBLE OF PANDORAS HOPE. FIELD. DAY

CADE and NESTRA walk side by side in a field, packs draped over their shoulders.

The wind whistles through the field and ruffles their hair

as it passes by. Cade's grey cloak moves with the wind as it passes.

The king of suns lies in the grass.

TRUTHSTALKER CADE is a man in his mid thirties. As a truthstalker he has been trained by the imperial academy to feel truth and lies as an emotion. He is well shaven with a short buzzed haircut. He has a look of determination, yet compassionate and emotive. His outfit is simple and grey with a sunburst and raven on the shirt. He walks with a gnarled looking wooden staff.

APPRENTICE NESTRA is a young woman in her late teens/early twenties. She is a curious and eager individual. She is quite attractive, the stunning blonde with blue eyes type.

NESTRA

And our assignment? Is it true
that we are here to find and kill
a beast?

Nestra's eyes light up at the prospect, but Cade screws up his face in disapproval.

This quickly turns to a smile as he looks at her while walking.

CADE

No Nestra, we are here to find truth and
follow that to its own end. I suspect
this beast is more fairytale than
fairy, if you get my meaning.

Nestra nods to herself as she readjusts the shoulder strap of her pack.

Her head whips up and she smiles. She has thought of something.

NESTRA

Yet couldn't a beast be the truth
of the matter? Monsters do exist. I

was on Minos Prime when a
sea monster attacked. So....

She trails off waiting for his response.

CADE

Yes, but that wasn't a monster, it
was an eliptosaur and minos prime
has such creatures. Menthius has no
native carnivores bigger than a rat.

Nestra looks a bit saddened by her naiveté.

Cade notices.

CADE

Still, I thank you for keeping me
open to the possibility...as long
as possibility does not blind
actuality.

Nestra smiles at this.

NESTRA

Wisdom is the mentor.

Cade smiles back at her and pats her on the back. There is
a caring relationship here. Not sexual though...more of a
father/daughter relationship.

NESTRA

So what type of interrogation
techniques are appropriate here.
Sorrenson's tactics of the caged
animal' perhaps?

CADE

Well, this is a tight knit community.
We are outsiders. If we push with
adversarial tactics, these people will
clam up.

Nestra's eyes go wide and she smiles a little, then sighs.

Cade notices this.

CADE

You felt the truth in that?

Nestra nods, smiling.

CADE

Excellent.

Nestra smiles, then pauses.

NESTRA

So how do we discover truth, then?

CADE

We simply talk to these people, but we must act in a real friendly and open manner. We will feel the truth no matter what face we present.

Remember that a smile thaws where the whip freezes...

EXT. FIELD AT EDGE OF SETTLEMENT. DAY.

Administrator Ada awaits the arrival of the TruthStalker with an entourage of important folks from Pandora's hope. This include her son, PIR MENT, the Blacksmith, HEFF, and his daughter THESSALY, and the doctor, FLINN.

Two flag bearers stand, one on each side of the group. Their flags rustle in the wind. One flag for the empire, one flag for Pandora's Hope.

Administrator Ada wears a red stole to mark the occasion.

PIR MENT is Ada's son and there is a resemblance between them in their high cheekbones and piercing gaze. Pir is in his late teens and has mid to dark brown hair and an athletic build. He shares his mothers determined demeanor, yet it is tempered by youthful enthusiasm. His clothes are

plain and stark, with a subtle flair of colour here and there. A large knife hangs in a sheath at his side.

The blacksmith, HEFF, is a burly and muscular, fun-loving fellow. He is scruffy in looks, with casual earth toned clothes. His big forearms are exposed showing an elaborate black tattoo of a beaver on the left side.

His daughter, THESSALY, is a couple of years younger than Pir and could only be described as mischievous. She has light brown, dirty blonde hair and dainty physique and always has a bit of a smile/smirk on her face. She wears a dress of warm tones and has a small black tattoo on her cheek of a sparrow.

DR. FLINN is the epitome of clean. His clothes are stark and dark, with not a wrinkle in them. His demeanor is serious and he is rarely seen to crack a smile.

As Cade and Nestra come into view, the flag bearers and Ada step forward. The flag bearers do a whirl with their flags as Ada instinctually straightens her clothes.

ADA
(formally)
Welcome to Pandora's Hope. Our many
greetings to you.

Cade swishes his cloak away and kneels on one knee. One hand on his staff, one on his heart.

Nestra follows suit.

CADE
I give myself freely to the service
of Pandora's Hope until truth is
exposed to the light.

He then bows his head forward.

ADA
(to everyone)
We have an old fashioned one here

She places a hand on each of their foreheads.

ADA
(formally)
Your gift is accepted with smiles
and your service is so entered. You
may rise, TruthStalker.

Cade and Nestra rise. Cade is donning a friendly smile.

CADE
Just call me Cade.

Suprisingly, he gives Ada a large hug. She is immediately tense, but the others noticeably relax their postures and smile.

Nestra notices this and smirks. It seems that smiles do thaw.

The group starts to walk away from the meeting place. Cade and Nestra walk with them.

Pir is intent on Cade and has his face screwed up in thought.

Cade notices this and meets his gaze.

PIR
Is it true that you feel emotion as
truth?

Ada shoots him a glare

ADA
Pir!!

Cade puts his hand up in peace

CADE
(to Ada)
No, It's OK

Cade turns toward Pir as he walks, but all are intent on him.

CADE

(to Pir)

I have been trained at the Imperial Academy of Illium, since I was a boy, to feel truth or lie as emotion.

Pir nods to himself.

PIR

So if I told you something you would be able to discern the truth?

Cade smiles. He has been through this before.

CADE

Indeed, but only if you yourself can discern the truth. A lie will leave me feeling nauseous, while the truth is more...

Cade winks.

CADE

(continuing)

...euphoric. Go ahead, you may as well ask me a question and feed your excellent curiosity.

Pir thinks to himself.

PIR

I will give you two phrases. My middle Name is Alistair. My middle name is Monroe. Which one is true?

Pir stands up straight in his smugness.

Ada looks at Pir with pride, yet Pir is not looking at Ada.

Pir is soaking up the look of pride cast on him by Thessaly. The two share an intimate gaze that Cade picks up on, as does Nestra.

CADE

You attempt deception, young Pir.
A valiant attempt, but I can readily
detect that both statements are true.

A murmur of approval goes through the crowd.

Thessaly's mouth opens in an 'O' shape. She laughs out loud at Pir. There's a light of mischief in her eyes.

Pir blushes, a bit angered.

PIR

Lets just hope that the truth of
our beast is as simple to figure
out as a middle name.

At the mention of the Beast, the laughing ends and all is silent.

Ada glares at Pir. He has been rude.

CADE

It's alright. With smiles, everyone.
It is my task here, we can discuss it.

Cade pats Pir on the back.

CADE

Pir is simply looking out for his
community, and that is a noble thing.

Everyone relaxes a little.

In the background, some workers cross the path where the group walked. They look like miners or tunnelers.

Thessaly looks at Cade, with a slight smirk.

THESSALY

Could our beastie be some sort of
werewolf? I mean, it seems to attack
only on the full moon.

Nestra seems to nod, taking this in. Perhaps it is a
monster after all.

CADE

(laughing)

It's a good question, but I suspect
what I will find here is not myth
material. I am here to unearth truth,
not fable of belief.

Thessaly throws her arm around Heff, her father.

She grins.

THESSALY

I just ask as the full moon is
tonight, and there's a fair suspicious
clump of hair growing out of Da's ears.
Should I find a tent of my own...

CADE

I dont think you...

Thessaly cuts him off.

THESSALY

Or should I braid it?

Everyone bursts out laughing, Heff laughing the loudest.

It was all a ruse. Thessaly caught him where Pir could not.

EXT. RITUAL TENT - DAY

The large white ritual tent is the largest in the tent town of Pandora's Hope. It is a place of religion and community gathering.

The group approaches the tent glowing in the noon day sun. Most file inside while Cade, Nestra, and Ada remain outside.

Cade puts his hand on Ada's shoulder to show he wants a word with her.

CADE

Administrator Ada, I would like to start my interviews as soon as possible.

ADA

Your enthusiasm is appreciated, Mr. Cade, but we are just headed into ritual assembly, and you will be with effort to find someone not in this tent.

NESTRA

(quietly)

A spiritual folk...

Cade and Ada look at her. They had forgotten she was there.

Cade motions for her to go inside. She hesitates, then enters the tent.

CADE

What denomination?

ADA

We have joint service here: Kristos and Natura.

Cade looks confused.

ADA
Natura, you know, the earthies.

Cade nods, noticing the cross of Kristos on her lapel.

ADA
We find that having joint service
reduces persecution. It promotes
equality.

Ada makes a motion with her arms to indicate a balanced
scales.

ADA
(continuing)
This is why it is etiquette here
not to ask someone their path. What
is your mind on this?

Cade looks up at the sky for a second and then back to Ada.

CADE
With honour, I don't think that
ignorance is bliss. I think ignorance
is a lack of education.

ADA
Well, Mr. Cade, what then is your
path?

Cade smiles

CADE
Ah! But Administrator, if I educated
you on this you would be breaking
your own etiquette.

Cade pauses, waiting for laughter to his joke.

Ada just faces him with a fierce angry glare.

CADE
(almost to himself)
No? Ok then...

Ada continues to glare at him.

Cade tries to lighten the mood.

CADE
I noticed the way Pir looks at that
young girl. You must be thrilled that
an intelligent, sweet maid like that
has caught his eye.

This does not lighten the mood. Ada looks furious.

ADA
Thessaly?! Certainly not! Pir knows
better than to couple with a lowly
blacksmiths daughter.

She turns in disgust and whips the tent flap open, enters
the tent, and closes the flap just as abruptly.

CADE
(to himself)
It's all about the equality.

He quietly enters the tent.

INT. RITUAL ASSEMBLY TENT. DAY.

There are many rows of makeshift seats in the tent and they
are jam packed with people.

It can be noticed that there are two distinct forms of
dress in the people. The stark colours and formal wear of
the followers of Kristos. These people also frequently
sport a cross on their lapels. These people are contrasted
with the earth-tone casual wear of the Natura folk. The
Natura people frequently have a simple black tattoo of an
animal displayed prominently.

The priest of Kristos is already giving a sermon. He is a younger man, in his early thirties. He has faith, and produces a booming voice for his size.

Cade enters the tent and makes his way to an open seat next to Nestra.

PRIEST
...I want you to remember Carolina
4:17 - Let she who walks with sin in
her pocket, be forever...

Ada is sitting a few rows over. She still looks rather annoyed.

He sits down and leans towards her.

CADE
(whispering)
I think I made a friend.

The Priest halts and gives Cade a look.

PRIEST
(pointing)
I see our new TruthStalker has deemed
worthy to worship with us.

Cade nods as a murmur goes through the crowd.

PRIEST
(loudly)
We have a crisis of faith here people!

He has their complete attention.

PRIEST
This beast represents the very essence
of sinnnnn

He hangs on to the last word as he flamboyantly points around the room.

PRIEST
(continuing)
Has it taken our people?

CONGREGATION
Yes!

PRIEST
Has it disrupted our lives?

CONGREGATION
Yes!

PRIEST
Has it shaken us to our very souls?

CONGREGATION
Yes!

PRIEST
So what do we do about it?

MAN #1
(by himself, quietly)
yes

He puts his hand on his chin, mocking a perplexed state.

PRIEST
We wield our faith as a weapon. Let
me tell you a little story about
faith. Who recalls the story of
Michael on the mountain?

CONGREGATION

Tell us father.

PRIEST

Well now, Michael was hiking on holy
mount Rainier when sinful gravity
overtook him and he fell, breaking
his leg.

The congregation is silent. The priest wiggles his finger.

PRIEST

(softly)

Yet his faith was not broken. The
Kristos came to him and told him to
fear not. If his faith was strong,
he could use it as a beacon.

He puts his hands out in a big gesture.

PRIEST

(louder)

And he was pure in his belief, and
his faith was a beacon. So bright
was his faith that Brother Collins
was guided to him. Brother Collins
acted as the hand of Kristos.

The Priest turns to face the tent wall.

PRIEST

You see, belief creates truth. Faith
creates strength.

He spins around, eyes wide.

PRIEST

And you can all be like Michael on
the mountain! Put your belief in
Administrator Ment and our
TruthStalker as they are the hands
of Kristos.

The end of the tent is illuminated by the sun and as the priest says hands, two silhouettes of hands shoot out below his.

PRIEST

And through that faith, the hands of
Kristos will slay the sin of the beast
and bring about salvation.

The silhouette arms start to move in a rhythmic, snakelike dancing manner. It makes the priest look like a Hindu Goddess.

The congregation starts to snicker.

The priest looks confused...

He turns to see the female silhouette and stumbles.

The silhouette continues to sway as it moves to the left.

A tent flap opens and the silhouette emerges to be a priestess. She holds the flap open.

PRIESTESS GIANA is a woman in her early thirties. She was flowing dark hair and womanly curves that can only be described as seductive. She has an ethereal, yet grounded quality about her. She is wearing sheer white fabric which gives the illusion of transparency, but is not.

Giana looks left then right. Her gaze catches Cade's. She whips the tent flap closed and walks to the front, hips swaying as she goes. The priest watches, entranced.

She pulls out a green apple, takes one bite, and throws it to the priest.

PRIEST

EEee!

The priest fumbles trying not to catch the apple. He gives Giana a nasty look while walking backwards towards the tent flap. It is not graceful, however, as he trips and scrambles to get out of the tent.

A small smirk appears on Giana's face. It is barely noticeable as she throws back her head and stretches out her arms.

GIANA

Our planet, the sacred and nurturing mother, was formed in the celestial cradle by the elements. So too will we nurture this place as sacred. As with the mother, so with the children.

Her head comes back to level. Her gaze is intense and penetrating.

WOMAN CALLING AIR (O.S.) [MESIA]

From the first breath of day, The steeds of air gallop from the east bringing their laughter and wisdom.

MAN CALLING EARTH (O.S.) [HEFF]

From the misty valleys, the stags of earth come from the north, bringing their strength and growth.

WOMAN CALLING WATER (O.S.) [HERCALISA]

From the swift rivers, the salmon of the west swim, bringing their healing and grace.

MAN CALLING FIRE (O.S.)

From the blazing sun, the ravens of the south fly, bringing their power and knowledge.

Giana spins, slowly.

GIANA

From the core of our soul, the light of our being radiates, bringing its light and laughter.

Giana sighs, and paces quietly.

 GIANA
 As I ponder our current 'crisis'

She rolls her eyes slightly.

 GIANA
 (continuing)
 I think upon the mother.

She extends her hands, palms down, and looks upward.

 GIANA
 (continuing)
 She is the beauty of nature and the
 inspirational light of the moons.

Her hands go down to her sides and she gazes around.

 GIANA
 (continuing)
 Sure, it is true that she keeps us
 and protects us. But we are not her
 only children. Both predator and
 prey are sacred to her. Sometimes
 we are one.

She changes to look more aggressive.

 GIANA
 (continuing)
 And sometimes we are the other.

Nestra tugs on Cade's cloak to get his attention. He looks at her and she raises an eyebrow.

Giana catches this and relaxes.

GIANA

Both life and death are part of her
sacred dance and neither is done in
malice.

She walks to stand in front of Cade.

GIANA

(continuing)

Even the quest for truth is a
predatory one. Correct?

CADE

Indeed.

GIANA

As at the end of the chase, for
truth to live, some beliefs must die.
Truth can nurture belief, or it can
slay it. Prey or Predator, Life or
Death. Its lucky for us that the
mother has provided an environment
with no large predators.

She turns, swaying hips, and cranes her Neck around.

GIANA

(continuing)

Except for us

Giana winks and turns her head back. She raises her hands.

GIANA

Let the elements be released!

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORA'S HOPE. DAY

A table and chairs is set up near the tents. Nestra stands
in the background organizing the people that have gathered.

Captain Mesia stands guard nearby. She is the picture of strength and readiness.

People form a makeshift line in the background, ready to be interviewed.

Cade stands near the table with Administrator Ada.

CADE

Administrator Ment, I think we got off on the wrong foot before. I did not mean to bag honour.

Ada touches him on the shoulder.

ADA

With smiles, TruthStalker. Just call me Ada. This whole beast issue has torn my calm. Asking for help is not my way.

CADE

Be easy then...Ada. I give my help without your request. I will be as quick and discrete as possible. I will do everything in suns light to uncover and nullify this beast.

Ada looks relieved.

ADA

My many thanks to you. I know you will. I will leave you to your work.

She goes to leave and sees the priest behind her. He looks at her. She nods.

Cade sits behind the table. Nestra makes her way over to the table.

ADA
(to Mesia)
Captain, please let our priest in
first.

Mesia nods in an abrupt subservient fashion. Ada walks off.
Mesia motions to the priest.

The priest walks over to the table and sits down.

CADE
Do you have truth to give freely to
this interview, father?

The priest shifts in his chair uncomfortably. He looks left
and right.

PRIEST
(quietly)
Well, I am not one for gossip....
Kristos is not approving of that.

CADE
Why dont you share it with us anyway,
not as truth, but as possibility.

The priest nods.

PRIEST
It's not that I think their kind are
evil you understand. Good hard
working folk...

Cade and Nesta look at each other. One of these.

NESTRA
Perhaps you had best speak your mind
and let us tally the truth.

The priest takes a handkerchief from his pocket and wipes
the sweat off his forehead.

PRIEST

It's priestess Giana. Things haven't been right since she arrived. People up and disappear. Crops fail. She's been seen out walking on the night of the full moon.

CADE

And she has stolen some of your followers?

The priest puts his finger up.

PRIEST

Yes!

He looks confused. He shakes his head.

PRIEST

I mean no, its got nothing to do with that....

The priest lets his head slink down, nodding, then he raises it up, confident.

PRIEST

By the hands of Kristos, I believe she is calling this beast with her magics...

Cade is stone faced.

CADE

I can squeeze no truth from the fruit of superstition.

The priest looks to Nestra.

PRIEST
You heard her in their... predator...
prey.... death--

CADE
(interrupting)
hvvDo you know that
she is calling the beast, father?

The priest looks angered. He looks to Nestra.

Nestra shrugs.

He looks back to Cade.

PRIEST
No, I dont know.

CADE
Well then, I thank you for your time.

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORA'S HOPE. DAY

Mesia motions a pregnant woman, HERCALISA, forward to the table. Hercalisa has straight blonde hair and blue eyes. She is tall, strong, and determined. She wears simple, natural blue fabrics and has a small tattoo of a bull on her right forearm.

Hercalisa approaches the table.

MESIA
Cade, this is the mistress of
dairy, Hercalisa.

Mesia bows and steps back.

Hercalisa takes a seat, arranging the chair to accommodate her belly.

NESTRA

How far along are you?

Hercalisa smiles and touches her belly warmly.

HERCALISA

This is my second and hopefully last labour. This one likes to kick at my very patience.

Cade puts his hand on his chin, thinking.

CADE

I dont know...I see many more in your future.

Hercalisa raises an eyebrow.

HERCALISA

Are you a psi-cog as well as a truthstalker, then?

Cade shakes his head laughing.

CADE

I wish it were so, then I wouldn't have to bug you with these interviews.

Cade nods to Nestra.

Nestra straightens up, smiling as she gets a chance to lead.

NESTRA

What do you know about the recent events in question? The disappearances, I mean.

A bit of sadness washes over her face.

HERCALISA

Well..... Ben and Carl were good
neighbors...and so in love...

She whimpers, then wipes her eyes with a cloth.

HERCALISA

(continuing)

I'm sorry. It's this labour...it
saps my strength.

Hercalisa looks as if she may cry as she puts her
handkerchief away.

Nestra grabs her hand, gently.

NESTRA

Be easy...

Hercalisa nods and takes a deep breath.

HERCALISA

It was two moons ago, they disappeared.
I was delivering the morning creme and
they just weren't there. No signs of a
struggle. Nothing. They were just gone.

Cade nods and Nestra writes it all down.

CADE

You have been most helpful. Thank
you.

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORA'S HOPE. DAY

Heff is next in line he makes his way towards the table,
using his crutch as he goes.

MESIA

Cade, this is....

Heff motions for her to stop.

HEFF

We had introductions, Mesia.

She backs off and shrugs as he lumbers up to the table.
Cade smiles at him.

CADE

Greets again, Heff. I see your
lovely daughter up in the line too.
Is her mother here as well?

Heff laughs.

HEFF

Mother? Mother! She's got no bleedin
mother. I had a splitting headache
one day and there she was.

They all laugh heartily

CADE

What can you tell me about the
disappearances?

He is quiet for a moment, considering.

HEFF

I...I don't know anything about
that.

Cade grabs his stomach suddenly, clearly in pain.

Nestra looks to Mesia who is readying her bow, and back to
Heff who looks quite confused.

Cade motions for them to calm down.

CADE

With calm everyone. It was lunch,

not lie.

Mesia lets her bow drop while the others breathe a sigh of relief.

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORA'S HOPE. DAY

Thessaly steps forward out of the lineup and walks towards the interview table. She waves off Mesia's introduction and sits down.

THESSALY

You remember me, right? Pir's friend?

She winks playfully at the word friend.

CADE

Of course, Thessaly.

Cade smiles, then turns more serious for the task at hand.

CADE

(continuing)

Now, do you know anything about the disappearances or the beast?

Her eyes light up.

THESSALY

Oh! I have some juicy stuff..

Cade and Nestra look at each other.

NESTRA

(cutting her off)

It is vital that what you tell us is truth, not rumor.

THESSALY
Oh of course...the truththe
truth...

Thessaly grins

THESSALY
The truth is that I heard..

Thessaly emphasizes the word 'heard' and pauses, raising an eyebrow.

THESSALY
(continuing)
...that the beast can shoot fire from
his nostrils and disappear into the
shadows.

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORA'S HOPE. DAY

A young man, starkly dressed sits at the table.

INTERVIEW MAN #1
It has 100 rows of teeth.

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORA'S HOPE. DAY

A middle age plainly dressed man sits at the interview
table.

INTERVIEW MAN #2
It has the head of a lion...

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORA'S HOPE. DAY

A young woman sits at the interview table.

INTERVIEW WOMAN #1
...the body of a goat...

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORA'S HOPE. DAY

An older man sits at the interview table.

INTERVIEW MAN #3
...and the tail of a serpent...

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORA'S HOPE. DAY

A plump woman in her thirties sits at the interview table.

INTERVIEW WOMAN #2
Its a vampire...

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORA'S HOPE. DAY

A man in his twenties sits at the interview table. He puts his hands up like claws and has a maniacal grin...

INTERVIEW MAN #4
...a werewolf...

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORA'S HOPE. DAY

A young girl sits at the interview table. She is barely 4 or 5.

INTERVIEW GIRL #1
...a monster.

The girl looks left and right nervously.

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORA'S HOPE. DAY

An old woman stands before the table. She is dressed shabbily and her hair is in disarray. A real hag.

HAG

You great bunch of naive FOOLS!

Cade and Nestra look at each other.

HAG

It's clearly a woman with snakes
for hair with a gaze that will turn
you to stone.

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORA'S HOPE. DUSK

The line is gone and the light is departing.

Cade and Nestra work diligently writing down their findings.

CADE

Well, that was a taxing day. You
did well, my apprentice.

He offers her a smile as she lifts her head up from her work.

NESTRA

But what did we learn? We know that
people think its some sort of monster.

She shakes her head as Cade stands.

NESTRA

(continuing)

Oh, that's big. Huge. I could have
told you that before I got here.

Cade paces back and forth.

CADE

Well, we know that these people are
afraid. So afraid that it sculpts
their belief even in the light of day.

He paces some more, pausing to look at the ground

CADE

(continuing)

And we know that the ones that
disappeared did so without a
struggle....and that's not without
meaning.

Cade turns to face Nesta.

CADE

(continuing)

Still...I had hoped to have some
sort of initial suspect by the end
of the day.

A figure in a white dress appears far in the background,
emerging from behind a tent. She looks left and right
before dashing to another tent.

Nesta points towards her. It's Priestess Giana.

NESTRA

Perhaps we do.

Cade spins to see Giana hiding behind a tent.

CADE

(to Nesta)

You finish cataloguing...

Cade motions to his eyes indicating that he is going to see
what he can.

Nesta nods and gets back to work.

Giana sprints off as Cade starts in her direction. She has not seen him yet.

Cade quickens his pace as he sees her go.

EXT. PANDORAS HOPE. TENT CITY. NIGHT.

There is an array of variously sized and colored tents dotting the landscape.

Giana runs behind one tent out of view just as Cade rounds the corner.

Cade catches a glimpse of her flowing white dress as it whips around the corner. He speeds up.

EXT. PANDORAS HOPE. TENT CITY. NIGHT.

Cade comes around the corner only to see Giana duck around another tent to the right.

EXT. PANDORAS HOPE. TENT CITY. NIGHT.

Cade bursts around this tent, near the edge of the tent city, and trips.

He falls to the ground, dazed and disappointed.

From this point of view we see the feet and bottom part of a dress scurry across his field of vision.

His energy is renewed.

He bursts up and sprints after her.

EXT. FIELD NEAR EDGE OF TENT CITY. NIGHT

Cade looks left and right.

Giana and the white dress are nowhere to be found. He has lost them.

The queen of earth blows across the ground.

CADE
(to himself)
Vile!

He looks up above to the sky to see two bubble distorted moons.

In the distortion of the bubble shield, one of them looks like a human face. Neither look beautiful.

INT. TRUTHSTALKER CADE'S TENT. NIGHT.

Cade bursts into the tent he shares with Nestra. It is a humble tent, but he is able to stand up in it.

There are two cots and a table containing Nestra's recent cataloguing. The tent is empty.

Cade moves to his cot, only to notice that there is a note on it.

Cade picks up the note.

FEMALE WHISPER V.O.
They live outside.

Cade screws up his face in confusion and thought.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

The hum of the bubble wall can be heard, yet not seen.

The trees are silhouetted black against the night backdrop.

A slow lumbering scraping sound is heard.

A figure comes into view in the foreground. Its silhouette is slightly hunched with ruffled spikes on its back. This is the beast.

It turns towards the camera quickly. Its eyes glowing in the moonlight.

BEAST

Grrrrrr...

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

There is a clearing in the forest.

A body can be barely seen in the middle of it. There is a gaping hole in its chest. It lies there. Lifeless.

The hum of the bubble can still be heard.

After a few moments the beast comes into view.

It hunches over the body and looks left and right.

BEAST

Grrrrr.....

It raises its claws, glinting in the moonlight, and brings them violently down tearing at the body.

We can hear the body being torn as the beast claws at it.

BEAST

GRRrrrow....GRROWLOW!

INT. TRUTHSTALKER CADE'S TENT. DAY.

Cade wakes suddenly as if out of a nightmare. Sweat runs down his face.

CADE

AAaaahh!

All is silent for a moment. Nestra lies asleep in her cot. Her muddy boots and bag flop nearby.

There is a rustling of the tent flap.

MARCUS
TruthStalker Cade?

Cade rubs his eyes and yawns.

CADE
(to Nestra)
Nestra...

MARCUS
(louder this time)
TruthStalker Cade?

Cade jumps out of bed.

CADE
(to Marcus)
Enter.

CADE
(to Nestra)
Up! Up! The day is upon us.

Nestra moans and puts her pillow over her ears.

Marcus enters. Cade is in mid dress.

MARCUS
Sir, they found a body.

Cade pauses and then hurries dressing.

CADE
Nest--

Nestra grins in, eyes still closed.

NESTRA
(interrupting)
I heard. A body. Now let me wake
in piece.

Cade shrugs, grabbing his tool bag.

MARCUS
Now isn't she just all kinds of
sweet.

EXT. NEAR THE BUBBLE SHIELD WALL. DAY.

The body of a man lies in the foreground. It has a giant hole in its midsection and has disfiguring slash marks all over it. Its face is contorted in a look of horror.

The hum of the shield wall can be heard in the background.

MESIA (O.C.)
What do you make of it?

EXT. NEAR THE BUBBLE SHIELD WALL. DAY.

Captain Mesia, Cade, Nestra, and Marcus stand near the body

The ace of earths is stuck in a tree nearby.

CADE
Well, he is clearly male and clearly
dead.

Cade smiles.

He crouches near the body.

CADE
What puzzles me are these drag
marks.

Mesia puts her fingers to her lips and nods.

Marcus looks confused.

MARCUS
What's to puzzle, man. The beast
dragged him here...

Marcus goes pale white.

MARCUS
(whispering)
That means it can get in--

MESIA
(interrupting)
But to what end, Marcus? Why would
it drag the body here?

Nestra steps to the foreground.

NESTRA
It's a beast, does it need a
Reason--

Cade looks at her disapprovingly and interrupts.

CADE
It seems, beast or not, it wanted
this body to be seen.

Nestra breaks into smiling. She inhales in the euphoria of
truth, as does Cade. They nod at each other in recognition.

There is a moment of silence as the others do not know what
to say.

CADE
(to Mesia)
Can we get this body to the doctors
tent?

Mesia nods.

CADE

(continuing)

I want to examine it in more detail.

Cade steps forward to talk privately to Nestra

CADE

(quietly, to Nestra)

I need you to do a more detailed
analysis of the crime scene. Meet
me at the doctors tent when you
finish.

INT. DOCTOR FLINN'S TENT. DAY.

Doctor Flinn's tent has shelving with a wide variety of
medical tools. There is an examination table with an
overhead light. There is also a small meager cot in the
corner with a cross above it.

Cade examines the body on the table as Nestra enters.

CADE

Did you find anything more?

NESTRA

Some hair and skin cells, but
nothing enlightening really. Here?

Cade is quite engaged with his examination, not even
turning around.

CADE

Oh yes, look at this.

Cade shines a flashlight looking apparatus on the body.

The big hole in the center of the body shines purple, the slashes shine red.

CADE

The chronastor shows that the wounds we made at different times. This hole is what killed him.

Nestra appears uninterested, fiddling with the doctor's equipment.

She picks up a blood pressure taking apparatus and looks at it. Then she puts it down.

NESTRA

The readings on those are not always conclusive though.

She picks up a scalpel and tests the sharpness on the blade. She looks like she approves.

CADE

That's what I thought originally as well, but when I checked out these slashes...

Cade pulls open one of the slashes.

CADE

...No blood. These were made long after the body was dead. This was the work of no beast.

Nestra starts to walk towards him, still holding the scalpel.

CADE

You might want to put that in the sterilizer. Doc Flinn would appreciate that after you fondling it.

Nestra looks down, seeming to forget she was holding it.
She turns around and puts it in a metal box.

CADE
...Here, I could use a hand to turn
him on his side.

Nestra was over and they turn the body on its side to
reveal a tattoo of a hummingbird.

A tattoo of a Natura.

Nestra and Cade look at each other.

CADE
I think it's time I visited the good
priestess.

Nestra grins with a sparkle in her eye.

Things are progressing well.

EXT. OUTSIDE PRIESTESS GIANA'S TENT. DAY.

Cade approaches Priestess Giana's tent.

He pauses, wondering where to knock. He raises his hand,
about to knock when...

A hand shoots out of the tent flap. A finger extends and
curls back in a 'come here' gesture.

Cade opens the tent flap and enters.

INT. PRIESTESS GIANA'S TENT. DAY.

Cade enters.

There are many multi coloured pillows strewn about the
room. A small table lies in the center of the room with a
single fat white candle burning on it. On the floor lie

various books, one or two are open. One book has an illustration of a creature on one of the open pages.

Cade looks around, left and right. Giana is nowhere too be seen.

Cade looks nervous.

PRIESTESS GIANA
You are mine!

Cade turns, holding a hand to his chest in surprise, to see Giana behind him, holding out a wineglass for him.

He looks confused, but grabs the wineglass.

PRIESTESS GIANA
One of my denomination. A Natura.
You see...

She is at a loss for his name.

CADE
Cade...

She elegantly sits on some of the larger pillows near the table.

PRIESTESS GIANA
You see Cade, you may see truth, but
I can see belief.

Cade feels the euphoria of truth and he sighs in pleasure a bit. She knows she has given him this.

Giana gives Cade a sultry smirk and pats the pillow next to her to motion for him to sit beside her.

Before sitting down, Cade clinks wine glasses with her.

CADE

It is often a razors edge between
the two.

They sit quietly for a moment, looking at each other.
Sexual tension is thick.

Then they....

...drink, toasting this statement.

PRIESTESS GIANA

You came here for more than just
wine, I think.

Priestess Giana winks at him.

Cade is dumbfounded.

CADE

Uh....

PRIESTESS GIANA

Cade? What was it you desired?

This cuts the tension that was present.

Cade snaps to attention.

CADE

Oh! It's simply that I did not get
a chance to talk to you yesterday...

PRIESTESS GIANA

..and you were wondering where I
went last night when you followed
me?

Cade smiles.

PRIESTESS GIANA

I knew you were following, of course.
That's what made it fun.

She brushes back her hair.

PRIESTESS GIANA

(continuing)

But the moons are only full for
three nights, and I needed privacy
for my prayer.

Cade nods and sips his wine.

He casually picks up the book with the beast in it.

CADE

A little bedtime story?

PRIESTESS GIANA

Well, a little research into beasts
of myth. I do my bit to protect as
well.

She turns more serious at this, insulted by the
implication.

CADE

You seem unique here.

Giana relaxes, sips her wine, and overtly checks Cade out.
She likes to be unique.

CADE

(continuing)

How did you come to be here?

PRIESTESS GIANA

Well I hopped from planet to planet,
dabbled in light magics and dark.
But when the divine asks, you dare
not hesitate.

Cade nods.

PRIESTESS GIANA

(continuing)

In truth, my purpose here has yet
to reveal itself. Until it does, I
do the good work and live the good
life.

Cade feels the euphoria of truth.

He raises his wine glass, toasting

CADE

To that!

They clink glasses and drink, sharing another moment.

CADE

Do you know...

Cade is interrupted by Nesta bursting into the tent.

Cade and Giana look at her.

She looks left and right, finally settling her view on Cade
and Giana drinking on the pillows.

Anger flashes in Nesta's eyes, but it is quickly replaced
by calm.

Giana smiles and looks back at Cade. Nesta is not of
consequence.

NESTRA

Marcus is dead!

Priestess Giana whips her head back to look at Nesta, surprised.

PRIESTESS GIANA

What?

EXT. PANDORAS HOPE. TENT CITY. DAY.

A man is pulling a cart with Marcus' body on it. He is lifeless. He has no slashes or gaping wounds of any sort. He is simply pale with a few purple discolorations.

Dr. Flinn walks near the cart. An observant person would note that his fly was undone.

A crowd of people hover nearby, murmuring.

Cade and Nesta wade through the crowd.

CADE

What happened here Doctor?

The doctor is a bit flustered.

The crowd hushes.

DR. FLINN

Marcus is...well...

Cade and the crowd are silently waiting.

Dr. Flinn takes a breath.

DR. FLINN

He shows all the signs of Valecon poisoning.

A gasp goes through the crowd.

Cade stands for a moment assessing the truth of that statement. It is indeterminate.

CROWD MEMBER #1
Valecon! But the bubble protects...

CROWD MEMBER #2
It must be weak...

CROWD MEMBER #3
...we could all die

CROWD MEMBER #4
...Poor Marcus, he was always near
the bubble wall...

The crowd continues to ramble as Cade kneels over the body.

He opens his bag of tools and pulls out the chronastor.

He shines it up and down the length of the body. The purple
markings glow very red in the light.

He is just about to shut it off when he sees a lighted
purple dot on Marcus' neck.

CADE
(to himself)
An injection scar...

CROWD MEMBER #5
...we could strengthen the bubble
generator...

CROWD MEMBER #6
...maybe it was something else....

DR. FLINN
Valecon killed this man!

CROWD MEMBER #7
...I dont know anything about
that....

Cade doubles over in nausea.

He was not paying attention to who was saying what, but
someone lied and lied big time.

He looks around briefly, but the voices and faces are
muffled. He grabs his stomach again and falls to the
ground.

Nestra notices this.

NESTRA
CADE!!

She runs over to Cade, she tries to prop him up.

CADE
(weakly)
get names...

He uses Nestra as support and stands.

She looks at him, concerned.

He puts his hand out as if to say 'I am fine'

Cade stumbles away.

EXT. PANDORAS HOPE. TENT CITY. DAY.

He comes around the edge of a tent and rests holding his
breath.

A hand comes around the corner of the tent and touches his
shoulder.

It is followed by a person, Giana. She comes into view
fully.

PRIESTESS GIANA
I meant to ask you truthstalker
Cade...

Cade is still weak from the lie.

CADE
(weakly)
It's just Cade

Giana raises an eyebrow.

PRIESTESS GIANA
Would you like to come to the moon
rite tonight?

He is quiet for a moment contemplating.

CADE
I would be honoured. It has been
long since I have been.

Giana smiles.

EXT. PANDORAS HOPE. OUTSIDE GIANA'S TENT. DUSK.

Cade stands relaxed while Giana circles behind him. She wears an all white shimmering dress, while his attire remains the same.

She lifts her hand up, there is a strip of cloth in it.

Cade closes his eyes.

She brings the cloth over his head, held tightly in both hands. Will she strangle him with it?

No, she places it on his face.

A blindfold.

She leans up close to him.

PRIESTESS GIANA
(nearly whispering)
Come away with me...

EXT. BLACKNESS. CADE'S POV

Feet can be heard running. Giana is leading him somewhere.

Cade grunts as the direction changes.

Giana giggles whimsically.

PRIESTESS GIANA
(whispering ethereally)
...Come away...

The sounds of footsteps continue with Cade being pulled
left and right.

Giana laughs.

There is a slight hum.

PRIESTESS GIANA
(ethereally)
Come a..

PRIESTESS GIANA
(distorted)
...Wagog...

PRIESTESS GIANA
(ethereally)
...way

Cade is confused.

CADE
Giana?

He grunts as he is pulled in a new direction.

PRIESTESS GIANA
(ethereally)
...Come away...

EXT. FOREST CLEARING. NIGHT.

Cade's blindfold is removed.

He rubs his eyes and looks around.

It is just the two of them. He is shocked.

CADE
(demanding)
Where are the others?

Giana walks in a sultry manner.

PRIESTESS GIANA
My deer...

She spins to see him, her eyes filled with purpose, and smiles.

The king of suns can be seen in the background, partially covered by the queen of earths.

PRIESTESS GIANA
(continuing)
...we ARE the others.

He looks at her askew, weighing the truth of the situation.

PRIESTESS GIANA
Relax. Feel the rhythm of the land.

Giana slowly dances in a circle around Cade, lifting each foot high then chopping it down, while she uses her hands to smooth out her dress.

It is a sultry, sexual dance.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Pir races through the woods chasing Thessaly.

They both laugh in the moonlight, high with the energy of flirtation.

They dart this way and that, giggling.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

The forest is quiet and peaceful.

Suddenly a figure rises as if on the strings of a puppeteer.

It is a silhouette. It has spikes on its back and is slightly hunched.

It is the beast

BEAST

Grrrrrr...

EXT. FOREST CLEARING. NIGHT.

Giana's dance speeds up.

PRIESTESS GIANA

Let it flow through you...

Cade looks relaxed, almost trance-like.

Giana's dance moves in closer to Cade. She passes behind him, touching his face as she goes.

He gasps in delight and moves towards her touch as she dances away.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Thessaly bolts left and right, with Pir in pursuit. She has a huge grin on her face and giggles teasingly.

Pir holds a single flower as he chases her, smiling.

She darts left and behind a tree. She giggles slightly and is silent.

She looks left and right.

Pir is gone.

She stands up and turns left again.

Pir is right there, startling her. Before she can jump, he has her in a kiss.

He presses the flower into her hand as they kiss.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

A dark patch of forest looms in front.

Emerging from it is the beast, walking slowly. Stalking.

You see the glaring whites of its eyes.

BEAST

grrr...

It sniffs the air, lifting up. Then it lowers and turns in a new direction.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING. NIGHT.

Giana dances by Cade once again. This time he is ready.

He scoops her around by the waist.

She does not resist.

They pause, looking at each other.

Silence.

They quickly move into a kiss.

 GIANA
 mmmm...

Her hands move down his back, slowly.

His hands move on her face, hair, and back slowly.

They continue to kiss.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Pir and Thessaly continue to kiss, leaning against a tree.

Thessaly's hand move slowly up his chest as they kiss.

She pulls back slightly from the kiss, grins and...

...she pushes him away with her hands.

Pir tumbles backwards.

Thessaly laughs mischievously, spins and darts into the forest.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

The beast stops mid stride, sniffs the air and turns completely around.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING. NIGHT.

Giana and Cade lower themselves to the ground.

Gently, still kissing.

Giana pulls back from the kiss, straddling Cade.

She smiles, eyes full of moonlight.

She reaches down with her right hand.

Cade's eyes fly open.

CADE
uhhh....

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Pir is searching through the forest, darting this way and that.

Thessaly's giggling can be heard not far off.

PIR
Thessaly?

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

As Thessaly runs, part of her dress catches on a log and rips.

She continues running, laughing.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

The beast is crouched, yet walking.

It raises each foot high and places it gently, moving forwards. Stalking with purpose.

Its eyes sparkle in the moonlight.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING. NIGHT.

Giana moves rhythmically on top of Cade.

From Cade's point of view we see two full moons.

They are undistorted.

CADE
The moons...uhhh...

Giana smiles, still moving rhythmically.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Pir darts here and there.

He jumps atop a stump.

PIR
(whispering)
Thessaly?

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

The beast speeds up its stalking.

It has a target.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Thessaly runs laughing, then slows down.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING. NIGHT.

Giana and Cade are still in the act, moving with rhythm.

CADE
(continuing)
Is this your magic?

Giana bites her lower lip.

Her eyes sparkle.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Pir sees the piece of Thessaly's dress on the log.

He runs to it and kneels, grabbing it.

BEAST

grrrrr....

Pir's eyes go wide.

PIR

(crying)

Thessaly!

He pulls his knife from his sheath and runs into the darkness to avenge Thessaly.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Thessaly stops.

Something is wrong.

She turns around.

THESSALY

Pir?

EXT. FOREST CLEARING. NIGHT.

Giana's eyes are bright in the moonlight.

Her face is filled with power.

PRIESTESS GIANA

(ethereally)

...Yes...mmm...

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Two silhouettes battle in the darkness.

Metal clashes.

There are grunts and gasps from each combatant.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Thessaly hears something and starts to run.

THESSALY

Pir!

EXT. FOREST CLEARING. NIGHT.

PRIESTESS GIANA

(ethereally)

....yes....

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Combatants continue to fight.

More grunting, gasps, and growls.

More metal clashing.

Then all is quiet.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Thessaly is running.

THESSALY

Pir!?

EXT. FOREST CLEARING. NIGHT.

PRIESTESS GIANA
(ethereally)
....Yes!

Cade's eyes go wide.

CADE
...ohhh...

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Thessaly stands in the quiet forest, confused.

A rustle is heard from the bushes.

Thessaly turns just in time to see Pir's body drop in front of her, bloodied and torn.

She screams as her flower drops to his bloody corpse.

INT. TRUTHSTALKER CADE'S TENT. DAY.

Cade sleeps on his cot, smiling in his slumber.

The tent is disheveled from them staying there.

Nestra's muddy boots flop on the floor. She snores in her cot.

A womans scream is heard.

Cade's eyes fly open and he is out of bed in a flash, pulling on his pants.

Another scream is heard followed by chains rattling.

GUARD
(muffled by the tent)
Come quietly, I don't want to hurt
you.

Nestra stirs in her sleep and looks up groggily.

Cade runs out of the tent.

EXT. PANDORAS HOPE. TENT CITY. DAY.

Cade emerges from a tent.

Two guards have Giana in chains and are taking her away.

Giana sees Cade, and gives him a look. Pleading, yet strong.

Cade grabs the shoulder of one of the guards.

CADE

What is going on here?

The guard spins to see him.

GUARD 1

What indeed, TruthStalker? Pir is dead!

Cade is shaken by this.

CADE

What?

The guard turns and grabs Giana by her hair, yanking her head up.

Giana yelps as he does so.

GUARD 1

It seems this wily cat has been calling the beast with her magic.

Cade grabs his arm.

CADE
(calmly)
You will not hurt her.

The guard turns to Cade, angry.

GUARD 1
Look here...

Before he can finish, Cade interrupts with a lightening quick jab to the face.

The Guard is stunned.

The second guard grabs for his weapon, but the altercation is done before he can. He relaxes.

CADE
(calmly)
You will not.

The guard nods and rubs his face.

CADE
What is your evidence against her?

GUARD 2
(disgusted with Cade)
We dont know it, and we dont need
to. All we know is that she is going
to tribunal and your job is over here,
TruthStalker.

INT. RITUAL ASSEMBLY TENT. DAY.

The tent is packed with people, muttering back and forth about the priestess angrily.

A panel consisting of Dr. Flinn, Administrator Ada, and the Priest sit at the front of the tent. They are the judges.

Priestess Giana is bound in chains near the side. Strung up on a pole for all to see. Still, she manages to look dignified.

Cade enters the tent and forces his way through the crowd. He motions a guard out of the way and approaches Giana.

CADE

I will try my best to fix this.

Giana lifts her head a little.

PRIESTESS GIANA

I do not think they want to listen

Just then, something flies out of the crowd and hits Giana. She yelps.

CROWD MEMBER

Filthy witch!

CADE

Even still, we have to...

ADA

TruthStalker Cade, why are you conversing with the accused?

Cade spins, and bows formally.

CADE

Honorable Administrator Ment, I stand to advocate for the accused.

Ada looks angry about this.

ADA

Why in light would you care to defend such a despicable creature!?

CADE

Let me remind you that she has yet
to be found guilty, she is only
accused at this point. I defend her
as I believe the accusation to be
false.

Cade walks towards the tribunal.

Nestra sneaks into the assembly tent and quietly sits down.

CADE

And further, due to the
circumstances of the crime, I move
that a more unbiased tribunal be
chosen.

Ada stands up in a fury.

ADA

An outrage! Pir was my son, yes,
but as the administrator everyone
in Pandora's hope is like my child.
To suggest that I would serve
anything but justice in this matter
is a whip of insult!

Cade blinks, unmoved.

ADA

(to the crowd)

Do any here among you believe me
unfit to see this through?

The crowd is silent.

Ada turns to Cade.

ADA

Well?

CADE
Fear inspires as much bias as
hatred, but I see I have no choice.

ADA
Watch yourself, truthstalker, or
she will be denied advocacy. I am
adamant--

CADE
(interrupting)
Which your parents knew well

Ada is flustered by this.

ADA
(continuing)
--that you respect this tribunal.

Cade takes a more pleasant stance, this is his only option.

CADE
My humble apologies then,
Administrator.

Ada sits back down.

Cade turns back towards Giana.

The tribunal and people sigh in relief.

Cade spins around.

CADE
I request a guard for the accused.
She has come to harm twice this
morning and her guilt has yet to be
proven.

Ada blinks. She is stern, but relents.

ADA

Very well, pick a guard of your
choosing.

Cade points to Mesia.

Mesia nods and walks in front of Giana.

She holds her bow out and taps it as if to warn against
trouble.

Ada fumes in her chair.

ADA

Read the charges, Doctor.

Dr. Flinn rises and holds out a paper.

DR. FLINN

The charges on Giana, Priestess of
Natura are as follows.

Dr. Flinn holds out one finger.

DR. FLINN

One, that said priestess summoned
with her magic, a beast of unknown
origin.

Dr. Flinn unfolds another finger.

DR. FLINN

And two. That she directed this
beast to cause wanton destruction on
the people of Pandora's Hope including
the murder of Carl Taggart and Pir
Ment.

Dr. Flinn sits down.

ADA

What is the mind of the advocate
on these charges.

Cade straightens up.

CADE

Only that they are false. Giana could
not have possibly summoned a beast
and murdered Pir last night as she
was with me.

A murmur goes through the crowd.

Ada looks around in confusion. She was not expecting this.

Cade stands smug with a light smile.

ADA

Well...uhh...

The priest stands.

PRIEST

Administrator, if I may...

Ada nods

PRIEST

Advocate Cade, the nature of her
vile magic is that she does not need
to be present to summon and direct
the beast.

Cade puts a finger on his lips and paces.

CADE

So if I am to accept this as magic,
which I dont, what proof do you
have that it was the priestesses
magic? Could it not have been any
one here?

The priest furrows his brow.

PRIEST

What you fail to understand is that she is evil. Natura is evil. Who else would do this but the head of this evil.

Cade straightens up.

CADE

(forcefully)

Evil? No more than Kristos, I would say. Be mindful of your sentiment.

PRIEST

Be Damned!!

Ada grabs his arm.

ADA

Be easy.

The priest sits down as Ada stands.

ADA

The evil is revealed by her actions.

Heff motions to say something, but Thessaly holds him back.

CADE

Yet you dont know these to be her actions. Many follow Natura here, you cannot condemn it and yet keep equality.

Ada is fuming.

ADA
(angrily)
I will do what I need to, to protect
my people!

Cade nods, calmly.

CADE
Indeed, yet do you have proof that
she cast this magic and summoned a
beast?

ADA
What proof do I need. She has been
seen out walking under the full moon.
To what end other than malevolence?

CADE
Well, Administrator, many admire the
moon with good hearts. What I ask is
if you have proof. Truth.

ADA
Mind yourself, Advocate! I need no
direct proof to act here. We all
live inside this Bubble and I need
to--

Her voice fades as Cade thinks to himself. He remembers the
note.

INT. TRUTHSTALKER CADE'S TENT. NIGHT.

Flashback of Cade looking at the note.

FEMALE WHISPER V.O.
They live outside.

INT. RITUAL ASSEMBLY TENT. DAY.

CADE

(excited)

Your honor, I request a recess to
bring this court important evidence.

Ada is startled at being interrupted. She pauses.

ADA

You have 1 hour.

EXT. BUBBLE WALL. DAY.

The bubble wall glimmers and hums in the foreground.

Cade stands before the bubble wall.

He starts to walk towards the bubble wall and stops.

He takes a deep breath, closes his eyes and was through the
bubble. There is a slight noise distortion as he does so.

EXT. FOREST. OUTSIDE BUBBLE. DAY.

Cade stands on the other side of the bubble.

He lets his breath out, and slowly takes another one.

He can breathe. There is no poisonous atmosphere.

Cade walks off into the forest.

EXT. CAMP OUTSIDE BUBBLE. DAY.

Cade emerges from the forest into a clearing with a camp in
it. There is a meager tent and some debris around it.

The ace of earths lies in the debris.

Cade walks cautiously over to the tent.

He lifts the flap.

UNKNOWN MAN

Can I help you?

Cade spins around to see a man standing there. He is small in stature but has a look of determination to him.

CADE

Benjamin Taggart I presume?

He nods, sizing Cade up.

CADE

(continuing)

TruthStalker Cade. I need you to come with me, back to Pandora's Hope.

Ben looks at the ground.

BEN

You do not know what you ask. Last time we tried to go back, Carl was shot.

A tear escapes his eye and he wipes it from his sleeve, sniffing.

BEN

It's not exactly rolling out the red carpet.

CADE

I understand. That's what I need you to tell them. If you do not come back, Priestess Giana will die.

Ben fidgets, looking down.

BEN

Oh gods, I don't know--

CADE
I swear on my life that no harm will
come to you.

Cade holds out his hand.

CADE
(continuing)
You have my word.

Ben slowly looks up tearfully nodding and holds out his
hand with determination and shakes hands with Cade.

BEN
You have my belief.

INT. RITUAL ASSEMBLY TENT. DAY.

Cade enters the tent with Ben Taggart in tow.

There are gasps of shock as people notice Ben.

CADE
Your honour, may I present my
evidence, Benjamin Taggart.

Silence.

Ada finally snaps to attention and straightens herself up.

ADA
It has been long since we have
Spoken Ben, what do you have to
share with this tribunal?

Ben steps forward and clears his throat.

BEN
Well, Carl and I have been living

outside--

PRIEST
(interrupting)
Lies!

Ada motions him to sit down and for Ben to continue.

BEN
We dont know how or why, but you
can breathe just fine outside the
bubble. We were out wandering one
night and were near Marcus' guard
station. Carl...

Ben takes a breath, nearly cries, then steadies himself.

BEN
Carl heard Marcus, although he sounded
funny, so he tried to talk to him.
Next thing I know, Carl was shot
through the bubble wall by Marcus. I
have feared coming back ever since.

Silence.

Ada relaxes a bit.

ADA
This tribunal has had me nervous
from the get go. Thank you Cade for
bringing this new evidence in.

Cade breathes a sigh of relief, as does Ben.

CADE
You are most welcome.

ADA
(continuing)
For it all seems to make sense now.

Ben what is your religious path?

BEN

Natura, of course.

The crowd gasps.

ADA

Of course. How else could someone live outside the bubble if not by sorcery? How could our priestess conjure the beast outside the bubble without an accomplice that was out there at the time? Benjamin Taggart, I find you also guilty of murder by association. Does the tribunal concur?

DR. FLINN

Yes.

PRIEST

Yes.

ADA

(continuing)

Guards, take Benjamin and our good Priestess away. It will be death by fire for them!

Ben's eyes go wide. He looks to Cade for help.

Cade looks beyond frustrated. He looks from the tribunal to Ben, in shock as a tear escapes him.

The guards approach both Giana and Ben to drag them out.

BEN

(as he is being hauled out)

I have your word, Cade! You have my belief!

The guards and prisoners exit the tent.

CADE

Vile! You say you serve justice but
I see none here. You ignore the
burden of proof and throw out the
procedures for your own vengeance.

Ada stands.

ADA

Not vengeance, truthstalker,
expedience. Time is of the essence
here. It is still the full moon
and the beast could strike again.
They burn before nightfall.

CADE

Why do you not believe me. You know I
speak the truth. If I told a lie I
would be doubled over vomiting.

ADA

But Cade, you have not spoken
your truth, only what others have
said to be true. Is it not correct
that you see it as truth if they
believe it as truth.

CADE

Indeed. Then how about this. I, Cade,
walked through the bubble wall. I
breathed the air outside the bubble
to bring Ben back. What is your mind
on this?

PRIEST

Sorcery!

ADA
Indeed, that is my mind as well.
You are under the influence of
sorcery.

Cade's face drains of color.

ADA
Guard--

Nestra stands up.

NESTRA
(interrupting)
Your honour, may I speak for
truthstalker Cade?

ADA
Of course.

Cade relaxes.

Nestra comes forward, to the tribunal table.

CADE
(to Nestra)
My many thanks

Nestra nods.

NESTRA
Your honor, in truth, Cade has not
been right since he interviewed the
Priestess.

Cade screws up his face, confused.

CADE
What?

Ada points to Cade.

ADA
(to Cade)
You will be silent, TruthStalker!

ADA
(to Nestra)
Continue

NESTRA
Well, I suspected sorcery myself but
I had no way to confirm it until I
saw her leading him off blindfolded
into the woods the night of the murder.

ADA
(to Cade)
Is this true?

CADE
Yes.

NESTRA
And I noticed...

Nestra looks left and right nervously.

ADA
What is it child?

Nestra approaches Ada and whispers in her ear.

Ada's eyes widen in fury.

ADA
(to Cade)
Remove your shirt!

CADE
I fail to see the relevance.

ADA
Now!!

Cade slowly removes his shirt.

Now bare-chested, a tattoo of a raven is prominent. A tattoo of Natura.

A gasp goes through the crowd.

ADA
TruthStalker Cade, I find you guilty of murder by association. Does the tribunal--

Cades smiles.

CADE
Wait, your honor. I request under imperial law section 57, sub-section 3, to have my fate tied to that of the other defendants.

Ada looks left and right to the doctor and Priest.

They both shrug.

Ada sighs.

ADA
I don't see why not. It's death by fire anyway.

CADE
Further to this, section 67, sub section 8 dictates, by the law of joint fates, that a recess of no

less than one day be given to weigh
evidence for the newly joint
proceeding.

Ada is shocked. She looks to the doctor.

Dr. Flinn pulls out a thick book and flips through it.

His finger scans down the page. He pauses, reading.

He looks up and nods.

Ada winces in pain.

ADA
Very well, this tribunal will recess
until tomorrow this time. The
sentences of Priestess Giana and
Benjamin Taggart will be postponed
until that time.

The crowd is hysterical.

CROWD MEMBER #1
But the beast could strike again!

CROWD MEMBER #2
We're not safe

CROWD MEMBER #3
The moon is still full. Kill them
now!

Ada stands and raises her hands.

ADA
Be easy!

They quiet down.

ADA

Since this is his brilliance, we will
string him up near the edge of the
bubble. If the beast rises this night,
it will see Cade first!

EXT. FIELD IN PANDORAS HOPE. NIGHT.

Cade stands, strapped to a pole, which stands erect in the
middle of a field. The moonlight casts a pale glow over
Cade, the pole, and the surrounding field.

Cade's head is down, saddened, while his arms are tied
behind him.

The king of suns and queen of earths are pinned to the
ground by a rock.

All is silent for a few moments.

Then...

A hunched figure comes into view. Darkened, with spikes
protruding from its back.

The Beast!

It lumbers towards Cade, raises up and sniffs the air.

BEAST

Grrrrr...

Cade lifts his head at the sound and squints to see the
figure.

CADE

Nestra?

The beast pauses, then straightens up to walk upright. As
she straightens, the spikes fold back down onto her back.

BEAST/NESTRA

Y..Yes.

She walks closer to Cade, slowly. This is not the Nestra we have seen before. She is dressed all in black, with thick black leather gloves and her large boots. A bladed apparatus protrudes from her left hand that looks like claws. Her right arm has a blade attached to it that runs the length from her elbow to her wrist.

CADE

Nestra, I want you to know that I am innocent.

She nods.

NESTRA

Sometimes it is not about innocence, TruthStalker. Sometimes it is about preserving the greater good.

Cade looks to the moon. Then back at her.

CADE

You knew!

He sighs and inhales in the euphoria of the truth of that statement.

CADE

Who are you?

She smiles. Confident. Arrogant.

NESTRA

I am Nestra. Internal Security
Service. Serial Number X37228.

Her eyes squint slightly, evil-like, as she turns away.

NESTRA

And of course I knew the bubble is a
sham. I knew before we arrived.
Without the bubble, what need would
these people have for external
government. Chaos would rule, Cade.
Chaos! If they thought it was a beast,
I was ordered to give them one and
serve them up a lamb to boot!

She turns back to Cade, moving closer.

NESTRA

(continuing)

But it doesn't need to be this way.

Her demeanor softens.

She runs her claws down Cade's chest.

He jerks nervously at her touch.

NESTRA

(adoring)

Dear Cade...

She looks him over adoringly.

NESTRA

My big, big lamb. You need not go
to the flames.

CADE

No?

Nestra's other hand runs down his chest, towards his pants.

NESTRA

Of course not. If you give yourself
into my care, I can protect you,
sweet one.

She emphasizes the word give, as she grabs at his groin, moving closer.

Cade nods quickly, thinking it over.

CADE

I see. If I forget about the others, right?

She nods and moves in for a kiss.

Her lips open as she approaches, slowly.

Cade's lips part as well as he bends his head to meet hers.

Then suddenly, he turns his head away.

CADE

I will pass.

NESTRA

(Furiously)

I can take you anyway, if I wish.

CADE

(laughing)

Yet that would not truly be your desire. You already have the power here, so you would merely be taking uneager flesh.

NESTRA

Is your blessed truth so important?

CADE

Truth is the sun's light, you cannot keep it from shining.

NESTRA

This bubble is truth and belief to
these people! It imprisons them. Do
you want it to imprison you as well?

She holds the claws to his chest, point forwards.

Nestra pushes the claws so that they break the skin
slightly. She licks her lips.

NESTRA

Do you want it to be the death of
you?

CADE

That fate has yet to be played out.
If that is truly my part to play,
then I will sadly dance it out. I
would rather be Lion than Lamb in
the face of a lie.

NESTRA

So be it.

Nestra pulls back, shrugs, then spins and walks away.

INT. RITUAL ASSEMBLY TENT. DAY.

The tent is filled with the occupants of Pandora's Hope.
Captain Mesia stands guarding the defendants.

The tribunal sits at their table, going through some papers
and idly talking. The crowd talks among themselves.

Cade stands immediately in front of the Tribunal table.

ADA

I call for commencement!

The crowd quiets.

ADA
(to Cade)
Now, Mr. Cade, did your night on the
pole bring any new evidence?

CADE
In fact it did, your honour

Ada leans forward, shocked.

CADE
(continuing)
I did see the beast last night!

The crowd sighs a collective 'Oh' and then falls silent.

They are hanging on Cades every word.

CADE
(continuing)
And the beast was Nestra!

Gasps are heard from the crowd.

ADA
Silence! It's preposterous! Are you
telling me that this...this Girl
killed a grown man?

Cade nods.

CADE
Indeed. She killed your son. She did
not kill Carl Taggart, however. That
was done by Marcus as he saw Carl's
distorted image on the bubble.

ADA
(to Nestra)
Did you visit him last night?

Nestra stands.

NESTRA

I did indeed. I went to talk some sense into him--

CADE

(interrupting)

And tried to Rape me.

NESTRA

Lies, your honour. You see his state of undress, he clearly desired my affection.

Ada looks Cade up and down.

ADA

I am inclined to agree. He is saying anything he can at this point to save his skin. It is the finding of this tribunal that TruthStalker Cade is guilty of murder by association. Does the tribunal concur?

Dr. Flinn and the Priest stand.

DR. FLINN

Yes.

PRIEST

Yes.

CADE

(whispering to himself)

one plus one equals--

ADA

Your sentence shall be carried out imm--

CADE

Three!

Cade falls to the ground, holding his stomach. He foams at the mouth as he convulses on the ground.

Ada is shocked as are the Doctor and the Priest. Everyone backs away from him.

The crowd is standing, confused and enthralled by the spectacle of Cade.

Cade continues to convulse and vomits up some blood as he does so.

His eyes go wide and he quickly pulls himself to his feet and breaks for the edge of the tent.

A guard tries to intercept by Cade knocks him down.

Cade wipes the foam and blood from his face as he darts out of the tent.

EXT. BUBBLE GENERATOR. DAY.

The generator sits at the center of Pandora's Hope, a mechanical generator humming away.

Cade runs towards it, with a host of citizens of Pandora's Hope behind him.

He approaches it and kneels. There is no clear way for him to disable it. He hits it with his hands, trying to break something free.

A guard approaches, first to get there.

Captain Mesia is close behind.

The Guard raises his weapon as Mesia raises her bow.

Before he can fire, Mesia fires an arrow through his wrist. The Guard falls to the ground in pain.

It appears Cade has an ally.

Cade manages to remove a panel from the generator as--

Nestra comes out of nowhere kicking him in the head.

Cade falls to the ground, with Nestra circling him.

The others stay back.

NESTRA

I cannot allow you to do that.

Cade tries to get up.

As she circles left, she strikes like lightening, hitting him in the chest.

Cade falls back down in pain.

Heff appears out of the crowd, running.

HEFF

TruthStalker!

Heff tosses Cade his staff.

Cade catches it and in the same motion knocks Nestra off her feet.

He braces himself on the staff and gets up as Nestra does the same.

Nestra pulls her arm out and has the claw-blade thing on her one arm.

The two circle each other, waiting for an opportunity to strike.

CADE

Heff, the generator!

Mesia guards the crowd, making sure no one else attacks.

Nestra moves in for a strike.

Cade steps to the side and hits her in the back with his staff.

Heff nods and pulls his hammer out of his tool belt.

Nestra rolls to the side and slices Cade in the leg as she rolls up into a standing position.

Cade yelps, but spins with his staff, cracking Nestra in the teeth.

Heff Approaches the generator...

Nestra fakes to the right, then bends left.

Cades staff misses her head.

Nestra slices Cade in the chest. His blood flows.

Cade stumbles back.

Heff raises his hammer to strike...

HEFF
(swinging)
WAhhh!

Nestra spins to take care of Heff...

Cades staff appears over her head in full swing. It hits her in the head.

Nestra topples.

Heff brings down his hammer. CLANG! The bubble generator sputters and powers down.

Cade cracks Nestra in the ribs.

Half of the crowd immediately falls to the ground, gasping for air. The other half look at them confused. Some believe. Some do not.

Cade raises his staff to bring it down on Nestra's throat.

The gasping half of the crowd convulses on the ground, making horrible wheezing sounds.

Cade brings his staff down--

HEFF
(confused)
Cade!

Cade stops just inches before her throat. He turns around and sees half the people dying.

The others are still looking at them confused. Some are trying to help the gasping folk, but to no avail.

NESTRA
(weakly)
I can fix it.

Blood bubbles from her mouth as she says it.

Cade nods and pulls back his staff.

EXT. BUBBLE WALL. DAY.

The bubble shimmers and hums in the daylight.

Cade approaches the bubble wall with Giana, Ben Taggart, Heff, Mesia, Thessaly, and many of the others. They all carry packs with their belongings.

Ada, the Priest, Nestra, the Doctor and the rest wait in a group of their own nearby.

Giana approaches Cade and gives him a hug. As they finish their embrace, they are still holding hands.

The group walks through the bubble wall with Cade and Giana holding hands.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE WALL. DAY.

The group is through the bubble into the outside world.

Some of the cards, king of suns, queen of earths, and others blow by in the wind.

They look excited and energized by this.

Cade turns to Giana looking at her.

As we look back from their point of view, we can see that the group on the other side of the bubble looks like a pack of beasts.

EXT. INSIDE THE BUBBLE WALL. DAY.

Ada and the rest of her group look towards the bubble wall.

The group outside the bubble looks like a pack of beasts to them.

One of the beasts leans to the other and their heads meet.

It's Cade and Giana kissing.

Ada looks infuriated.

She turns to a bruised Nestra who still has her claws protruding from her one hand.

ADA

Grrrrr...

FADE OUT.